

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application Claims 14-23, of which Claim 14 is independent. Claim 14 has been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 14 is directed to a method adapted to an image forming apparatus and comprises the steps of causing the image forming apparatus to operate in one of a first mode for discharging the sheet to a stacking unit in the image formed face-up condition and a second mode for discharging the sheet to the stacking unit in the image formed face-down condition, selecting one of the first and second mode, and a control step of making lower an amount of sheets stacked in the stacking unit in the first mode than an amount of sheets stacked in the second unit in the second mode.

Independent Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Yamashita, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,139,254). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yamashita, et al. is directed to a sheet storing apparatus which comprises means for stacking sheets, drive means for moving up and down the sheet stacking means, control means for controlling the drive means to move down the sheet stacking means as the sheet stack on the sheet stacking means is growing and means for judging the fullness of the sheet stacking means when the sheet stacking means is moved down to a position which is specified according to the size of the stacked sheets. Yamashita, et al. does feature a non-

reversing mode in which the sheet is fed to the sheet storing unit 60 with the printed side facing up and the reversing mode in which the sheet is fed to the sheet storing unit 60 with a printed side facing down. However, Yamashita, et al. is not understood to teach or suggest a control step of making different an amount of sheets stacked in the stacking unit in the first mode and an amount of sheets stacked in a stacking unit in the second mode.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner concluded that making of the amount of sheets stacked in a different modes different would be an inherent feature of Yamashita, et al. Applicant respectfully disagree. Nevertheless, in order to highlight the distinctions between the present invention and Yamashita, et al., Applicant has amended the control step of Claim 14 to more clearly recite that it makes lower an amount of sheets stacked in the stacking unit in the first mode than an amount of sheets stacked in the stacking unit in the second mode. Such feature, which is respectfully submitted to be supported in the specification at least on page 17, line 15 through page 18, line 14, is clearly not an inherent feature of Yamashita, et al. Nor is it taught or suggested by that reference.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 14 is patentable over the applied art.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 14 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to Claim 14. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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